

## MITRA BURNUPIANA, N.SP., FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

By the Rev. Dr. A. H. COOKE, F.Z.S.

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In a paper recently read<sup>1</sup> before the Zoological Society of London, mention was made of an undescribed species of *Mitra*, received from Durban through Mr. H. C. Burnup, and provisionally labelled as "*M. circula*, Kien., var." The form of the radula, as was there explained, sufficiently differentiated the so-called variety from *M. circula* typical; it now remains to record the difference between the two species conchologically. Here we have the advantage of Mr. Burnup's own notes on a number of specimens. The new species, to which we propose to attach the name *burnupiana*, belongs to that group of *Mitra* provisionally separated off as "group (7) of *sphærulata*", a group very far removed, by the radula, from the "group (10) of *scabriuscula*", to which *M. circula* belongs.

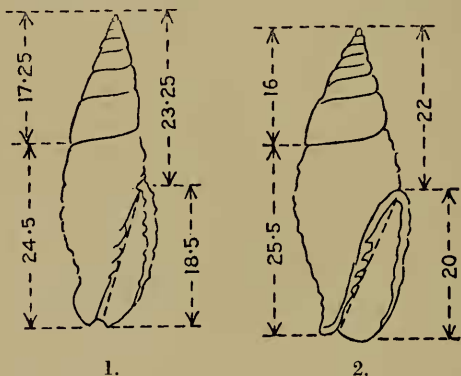


FIG. 1.—*M. circula*, Kien. FIG. 2.—*M. burnupiana*, Cooke.

## MITRA BURNUPIANA, n.sp.

(Mr. Burnup's notes take the form of a comparison between the so-called "var." and the typical *circula*, Kien.)

"The 'var.' is not so narrow or elongate. A much greater proportion of the whole length of the shell is occupied by the body-whorl, so leaving the spire shorter. The body-whorl and spire are also considerably wider.

"The sculpture is somewhat similar, but the longitudinal grooves are both deeper and further apart in the 'var.', cutting the spiral costæ into much larger beads than in *circula*, and converting the intercostal threads into series of smaller oblong beads.

"The aperture is wider, especially below the middle, and also

<sup>1</sup> "The Radula of the Mitridæ"; Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1919, pp. 405-422.

longer. The callus is much more strongly developed, quite forming an inner lip. The juncture of the callus above with the outer lip stands out from the body-whorl, almost forming a posterior canal, as it does not in *circula*.

"The outer lip is thicker, less crenulate, and more polished. The columellar plaits are more strongly developed, forming together a triangular mass, with the upper plaits so much longer than the lower that if a line be drawn from the tip of the fourth to that of the first and extended upward it would reach the suture; whereas in *circula* it would strike the paries considerably to the left of the suture.

"The columella is not so much 'produced in the style of the Fusidæ'.

"Although all the above distinctions may not be conspicuous in the comparison of any two individuals of the two forms, enough will always be found to enable the careful student to separate them without hesitation.

"Both forms, as found in Durban Bay, are a good deal short of Kiener's length dimensions, i.e. about 27 mm. against 38 mm. As both forms are found together, variation through environment is barred.

"The dimensions given with the above figure are those of the enlarged drawings, not of the shells themselves."

The actual dimensions of two specimens in my collection are :

		mm.
Total length of shell	<i>burnupiana</i>	27
"	<i>circula</i>	26.5
Breadth of shell at widest	<i>burnupiana</i>	10
"	<i>circula</i>	7
Length of spire	<i>burnupiana</i>	13
"	<i>circula</i>	15
" aperture	<i>burnupiana</i>	14
"	<i>circula</i>	11.5

The type-specimen is placed in the British Museum (Natural History).